

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a respiratory filter, said method comprising the steps of:

intermixing a granular adsorbent, absorbent, chemisorptive, or catalytic material, particularly activated carbon with a meltable polymer(s) to produce a mixture; and

molding the mixture in ~~the~~ a connecting part comprising an inner surface with a complete or partial groove into which the mixture is formed or a tongue so as to make a molded piece and a substantially gastight connection between the molded piece and the inner surface of the connecting part so that the molded piece respectively engages in or partially encloses the groove or tongue in a manner that a gas tending to move in a straight path past the connecting part between the inner surface of the connecting part and the mixture is caused to either a) be diverted away from the inner surface into the mixture by the tongue or b) pass through the mixture at the groove and so that the molded piece and connecting part can be operatively connected as a unit to a respirator or fan filter unit.

2. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus for carrying out the method according to claim 1 in which~~ A respiratory filter comprising:

a mixture of granular adsorbent, absorbent, chemisorptive, or catalytic material, particularly activated carbon, ~~[[is]]~~ heated under pressure in a mold with a meltable polymer(s) and pressed into a molded piece,

wherein the mold is a connecting part for a respirator or fan filter unit and there is a positive and/or non-positive gastight connection between said connecting part and the ~~compacted~~ pressed molded piece,

wherein the connecting part comprises an inner surface with a complete or partial groove or tongue which the pressed molded piece engages in, or partially encloses, respectively, in a manner that a gas tending to move in a straight path past the connecting part between the inner surface of the connecting part and the pressed molded piece is caused to either a) be diverted away from the inner surface into the mixture by the tongue or b) pass through the mixture at the groove and so that the pressed molded piece and connecting part can be operatively connected as a unit to a respirator or fan filter unit.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ respiratory filter according to claim 2 wherein the connecting part comprises a periphery with fasteners on ~~[[it's]]~~ the periphery for a detachable substantially gastight connection to a respirator or fan filter unit, or for a substantially gastight connection to an adapter for connecting to a respirator or fan filter unit.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ respiratory filter according to claim 4 wherein the connection to the adapter is detachable.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ respiratory filter according to claim 4 wherein the fasteners are designed for a snap-in or threaded connection.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ respiratory filter according to claim 2 wherein the connecting part is made of a polymer with a higher melting point than the polymer(s) of the pressed molded piece, or of cardboard or metal.

8. (Previously presented) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 1 further comprising the step of operatively connecting the respiratory filter to a respirator or fan filter unit.

9. (Previously presented) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 8 further comprising the step of providing an adapter and the step of operatively connecting the respiratory filter comprises operatively connecting the respiratory filter to the respirator or fan filter unit through the adapter.

10. (Previously presented) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 9 wherein the step of operatively connecting the respiratory filter comprises the step of snap-fitting the respiratory filter to the adapter.

11. (Previously presented) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 1 wherein the step of molding the mixture comprises molding the mixture to make a positive gastight connection between the molded piece and the connecting part.

12. (Previously presented) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 1 wherein the step of providing a connecting part comprises the step of providing a ring-shaped connecting part.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2 in combination with a respirator or fan filter unit wherein the respiratory filter is operatively connected directly to the respirator or fan filter unit.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2 in combination with a respirator or fan filter unit wherein the respiratory filter is operatively connected to the respirator or fan filter unit through an adapter.

15. (new) The method for producing a respiratory filter according to claim 1 further comprising the step of heating the mixture under pressure in the connecting part during the step of molding the mixture.